

CLAIMS

What is Claimed Is:

1. An accessing method comprising:
attempting access of a first networked entity having a first preselected security level by a search engine having a second preselected security level;

allowing access of the first networked entity by the search engine upon the second security level being equal to or higher than the first security level;

attempting access of the search engine by a user having a third preselected security level; and

allowing access of the search engine by the user upon the third security level being equal to or higher than the second security level.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the search engine presenting a digital signature certificate in attempting access of the first networked entity.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the first networked entity querying a second networked entity to determine if the security level of the search engine is equal to or higher than the security level of the first networked entity.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the user presenting a digital signature certificate in attempting access of the search engine.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the search engine querying a second networked entity to determine if the security level of the user is equal to or higher than the security level of the search engine.

6. An accessing method comprising:
attempting access of a secured Web server having a first preselected security level by a search engine having a second preselected security level;

allowing access of the secured Web server by the search engine upon the second security level being equal to or higher than the first security level;

attempting access of the search engine by a user having a third preselected security level; and
allowing access of the search engine by the user upon the third security level being equal to or higher than the second security level.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the search engine presenting a digital signature certificate in attempting access of the Web server.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising the Web server querying a directory to determine if the security level of the search engine is equal to or higher than the security level of the Web server.

9. The method of claim 6, further comprising the user presenting a digital signature certificate in attempting access of the search engine.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the search engine querying a directory to determine if the security level of the user is equal to or higher than the security level of the search engine.

11. A network comprising:
a first networked entity having a first preselected security level;

a search engine having a second preselected security level, wherein the first networked entity allows access by the search engine upon the second security level being equal to or higher than the first security level; and

a user having a third preselected security level, wherein the search engine allows access by the user upon the

third security level being equal to or higher than the second security level.

12. The network of claim 11, further comprising a digital signature certificate which is presented to the first networked entity upon the search engine attempting access of the first networked entity.

13. The network of claim 12, further comprising a second networked entity, wherein the first networked entity queries the second networked entity to determine if the security level of the search engine is equal to or higher than the security level of the first networked entity.

14. The network of claim 11, further comprising a digital signature certificate which is presented to the search engine upon the user attempting to access the search engine.

15. The network of claim 14, further comprising a second networked entity, wherein the search engine queries the second networked entity to determine if the security level of the user is equal to or higher than the security level of the search engine.